

## **BURKE CENTRE VRE PARKING FACILITY EXPANSION TASK FORCE**

### **Meeting 4 Summary**

The fourth meeting of the Burke Centre VRE Parking Facility Expansion Task Force began at 7:15 PM on December 17, 2003. Supervisor Bulova welcomed all attendees and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to hear progress reports from the chairpersons of the Design, Operations, and Pedestrian Access subcommittees.

Before turning the meeting over to the committees, Supervisor Bulova presented to the task force a letter from Burke Centre Conservancy President Art Steffen. This letter requests that Fairfax County scale back the size of the proposed garage. Supervisor Bulova directed county staff to consider the issues raised by the letter and respond. She specifically asked staff consider whether the size of the garage being planned exceeded what is needed for a community-serving parking facility.

Supervisor Bulova then turned the floor over to Janyce Hedetniemi, chair of the Design Committee. Hedetniemi introduced Mary Cortina and Jeff Nolan as the committee's community leads. She then explained that Cortina and committee member Ray Foreman submitted items for consideration in the garage's design such as access, noise, color, lighting, and environmental impact. Hedetniemi also conveyed the committee's desire to know the correlation between the passenger projections, the feasibility study, and the garage "footprint." The committee has already discussed recommending a scaled-back design.

Hedetniemi and her committee are trying to consider the future of public transportation in Burke. Questions they may ask include the possibility of expanding the EZ Bus program, providing relief through carpooling, and reducing the reliance on automobiles. Essentially, they do not want a "white elephant" to be constructed in the community. The committee also wants to examine the structure's compatibility with the community and the possible inclusion of small businesses or other amenities.

The Design Committee's objectives are to determine an acceptable framework and an operational design. Other issues they will confront include safety, aesthetics, and landscaping. Hedetniemi also stated that the committee has requested David Bulova, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board, and Paul Andino, Fairfax County Water Authority Board, to speak about environmental and design issues. The committee will also work with a liaison from the Burke Centre Architectural Review Board (ARB) throughout their deliberations.

John Provost then explained that the Woodbridge garage is a "skateboarder's paradise" and suggested the committee look at design features that might limit skateboarding and other youth activity at the garage. Mike McMahon also suggested revisiting the idea of moving the garage closer to Roberts Parkway.

Following Hedetniemi's presentation, Operations Committee Chairman Steve Schrobo reported his committee's progress to the group. His committee had not yet chosen the community leads. At their first meeting, they discussed what issues fell under the "operations" umbrella and various approaches to operational issues. As a general outline, the Operations Committee has divided the parking expansion project into five periods: before construction; during construction with reduced parking availability; during construction with increased space availability; post-construction; and post-Rolling Road station expansion.

Schrobo explained that the committee has requested 13 items from county staff, including traffic estimates, traffic counts, crime statistics, ridership projections, etc. They also discussed the future of the EZ Bus program and whether funding would be available beyond one year. Kevin Morse suggested getting federal funding for the program.

Mike Brennan, chairman of the Pedestrian Access and Trails Committee, then presented his group's plan for the next several weeks. The two community leads are Amy Vogt and Caryna Baker-Fox. Brennan explained that his committee sought information from county staff regarding the minimum recommended requirements for sidewalks, trails, bicycle facilities, and connectors/overpasses. Other aspects his group will consider include the expected number of users, safety, aesthetics, and perceived cost.

Brennan then described the committee's preliminary recommendations:

- Construction of a path/bridge across Sideburn Branch;
- Improvements for pedestrians at the Guinea Road/Roberts Road intersection;
- Sidewalk along Roberts Road next to the Colony Park neighborhood;
- Trails and sidewalks in the VRE station parking lot;
- Stairs down to the station from the Roberts Road overpass;
- Facilities for storing bicycles at the VRE station;
- Extending the trail/sidewalk on Roberts Parkway from the entrance to Wal-Mart to Burke Centre Parkway.

Supervisor Bulova reminded everyone that the next meeting of the entire Burke Centre VRE Parking Facility Expansion Task Force would be January 21, 2004, at 7:15 PM. She also reiterated that her office was available for the committees to meet independently on most Wednesday evenings. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Attendees:

Supervisor Sharon Bulova  
Commissioner Suzanne Harsel  
Florence Naeve  
Robert Glass

Larry Ichter, Department of Public Works  
Ken Lim, Department of Public Works

Karyn Moreland, Dept. of Transportation  
Leonard Wolfenstein, Dept. of Transportation

Mike Brennan  
Sam DiBartolo  
Ray Foreman  
Janyce Hedetniemi  
Debra Holland  
Everett Johnson  
Kate Mattice  
Mike McMahon  
Kevin Morse  
Joe Osborne  
John Provost  
Leon Rose  
Steve Schrobo  
Tom Schwarz  
Joann Sokol  
Robin Williamson